

Comments regarding 04-233:

The FCC is trying to shift the entire broadcast industry back to an archaic and inflexible model of reporting requirements, mandatory programming blocks, and even mandatory civic participation. They are under the assumption that local broadcasters don't do enough to support the needs of their communities, which is an unabashedly ignorant position when considering stations such as KJHK.

KJHK is the student-run radio station operated out of the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. For 33 years, KJHK has been the radio voice of the student body, and has always been active and responsive to the community's needs. In addition to serving the KU campus and students as its primary mission, KJHK goes out of its way every day to inform the public in a range of methods.

Imposing requirements on weekly public programming and reporting would cripple our station, as KJHK is a learning lab apart from a journalistic track. All resources available would be directed at a small (but required) percentage of programming, which would cause the rest of KJHK's 24/7 programming to degrade in quality. How would that serve our local listeners better?

From award-winning public affairs programming to our annual airing of over 17,500 Public Service announcements, KJHK is a model local broadcaster. KJHK students are also heavily invested in our community's health and future - countless students volunteer around Lawrence for all sorts of worthwhile causes. You don't need an FCC mandate to be a good person or to care about your community, and KJHK students prove that every day.

It is ludicrous for the FCC to mandate something that KJHK and its students already take very seriously, and to top it off by imposing costly mandates on KJHK in order to prove our commitment to the public. Our already-devout commitment to our listeners and our community is self-evident, and college stations by definition place emphasis on local issues. There is no reason to create a stranglehold on non-commercial educational stations with the least amount of resources in the industry, which is exactly what this NPRM does.

Sincerely,

Thomas Johnson

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